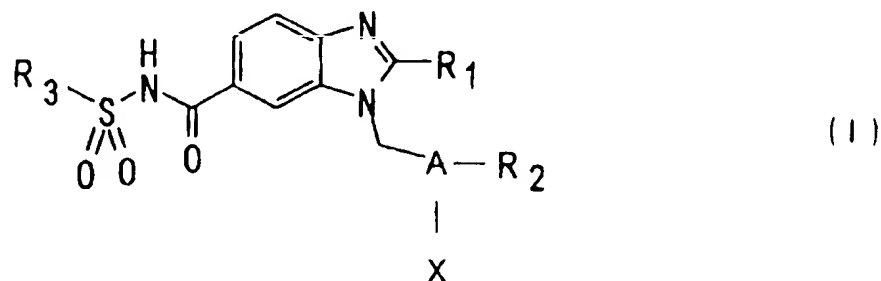


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A benzimidazole derivative of the following formula (I), or its salt:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> represents a lower alkyl group or a lower alkyloxy-lower alkyl group; R<sub>2</sub> represents an ethyl group, an n-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an n-heptyl group, a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an n-propyloxy group, an n-pentyloxy group, an n-hexyloxy group, an n-octyloxy group, an aryl group, an aryl-lower alkyl group, an aryloxy-lower alkyl group, an alkyloxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a lower alkyloxy-lower alkyloxy group, a (cyclopentylmethyl)oxy group, a lower cycloalkyl-lower alkyloxy group, an aryl-lower alkyloxy group, an alkynyl group having 3 to 8 carbon atoms, a halo-lower alkyl group, a methylthio group, a lower alkylthio group, a lower alkanoylamino group, an N-substituted lower alkylamino group, a thienyl group, a furyl group, or a morpholino group; R<sub>3</sub> represents a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, an aryl group, a lower alkylaryl group, an aryl- lower alkenyl group, or a halothienyl group, a lower alkylamino group, or an aryl-lower alkylamino group;

wherein A represents an imidazole ring, a pyridine ring, or a pyridine ring and

2. (currently amended) The benzimidazole derivative or its salt of claim 1, wherein X represents a chlorine atom A is a benzene ring.

3. (currently amended) The benzimidazole derivative or its salt of claim 2, wherein a lower alkyl or a lower alkenyl moiety of a lower alkyl group, a lower alkyloxy lower alkyl group, an aryl lower alkyl group, an aryloxy lower alkyl group, a lower alkyloxy lower alkyloxy group, a lower cycloalkyl lower alkyloxy group, an aryl lower alkyloxy group, a halo lower alkyl group, a lower alkylthio group, an N-substituted lower alkylamino group, a lower alkanoylamino group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylaryl group, an aryl lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylamino group, and an aryl lower alkylamino group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms; a lower cycloalkyl moiety of a lower cycloalkyl lower alkyloxy group has 3 to 7 carbon atoms; and an aryl moiety of an aryl group, an aryl lower alkyl group, an aryloxy lower alkyl group, an aryl lower alkyloxy group, and an aryl lower alkylamino group is a phenyl group.

4. (currently amended) The benzimidazole derivative or its salt of claim 3, wherein R<sub>1</sub> is a methyl group or a methyloxymethyl group; R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 2 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, a phenylethyl group, a phenyloxymethyl group, an alkyloxy group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a (2-methyloxyethyl)oxy group, a cyclopentylmethyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, an alkynyl group having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, a trifluoromethyl group, a methylthio group, a butyrylamino group, an N-methylpentylamino group, a thienyl group, a furyl group, or a morpholino group; and R<sub>3</sub> is a butyl group, a pentyl group, a pentenyl group, a phenyl group, a methylphenyl group, a phenylethenyl group, or a chlorothienyl group, an amino group substituted with an alkyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, or a benzylamino group.

5. (currently amended) The benzimidazole derivative or its salt of claim 1, wherein the benzimidazole derivative or its salt is selected from the group consisting of

~~1-((1-bromonaphthalen-2-yl)methyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
benzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~6-(1-butanefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((3-methylbenzene)-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~6-(1-butanefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(2-phenylethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
enzyme)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(phenyloxymethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(1-pent-1-  
ene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(phenyloxymethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(2-  
phenylethene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~6-(1-butanefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenyloxy-methyl)benzyl)-2-  
methylbenzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(phenyloxymethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((3-  
methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-octyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-octyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
benzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-hexyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-pentyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-pentyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
benzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(4-n-butyl-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-  
methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-propyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(n-propyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-~~

1-(2-chloro-4-(methyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-((2-methyloxyethyl)oxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentanesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-((2-methyloxyethyl)oxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(cyclopentylmethyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentanesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(cyclopentylmethyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(cyclopentylmethyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-1-pent-1-enesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
6-(benzenesulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((3-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(2-phenylethene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((5-chloro-2-thiophene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-6-(1-butanesulfonylcarbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
1-(4-benzyloxy-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-1-pent-1-enesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
6-(1-butanesulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-thienyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(2-thienyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-1-pent-1-enesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
6-(benzenesulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((3-

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(2-phenylethene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-6-((5-chloro-2-thiophene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~6-(1-butanefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-1-pent-1-enesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-2-(methyloxymethyl)-6-(1-pentanesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)-2-(methyloxymethyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-pentyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-pentyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-hexyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-hexyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-heptyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-heptyn-1-yl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-ethylbenzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentanesulfonyl-carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-ethylbenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-n-butyl-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentanesulfonyl-carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-n-butyl-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-pentyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-pentyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-hexyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-1-pent-1-enesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-hexyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(2-~~  
~~phenylethene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(1-hexyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((5-chloro-2-~~  
~~thiophene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
1-(2-chloro-4-(1-heptyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-  
sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(1-heptyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
benzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
6-(1-butanefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
6-(benzenefulfonylcarbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((3-~~  
~~methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((E)-(2-~~  
~~phenylethene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((5-chloro-2-~~  
~~thiophene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
1-(2-chloro-4-(N-methyl-N-(1-pentyl)amino)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-  
pentanesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-(N-methyl-N-(1-pentyl)amino)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-  
methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(4-(N-1-butyrylamino)-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-  
pentanesulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(4-(N-1-butyrylamino)-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-  
methylbenzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
1-(2-chloro-4-morpholinobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-

1-(2-chloro-4-(methylthio)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-(1-pentane-sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,  
and 1-(2-chloro-4-(methylthio)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((4-methyl-  
benzene)sulfonylcarbamoyl)benzimidazole,

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-  
propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-6-((N-1-hexylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~6-((benzylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-phenylbenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-6-((N-ethylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-pentylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~6-((benzylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(4-bromo-2-chlorobenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(methyloxy)benzyl)-2-  
methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(ethyloxy)benzyl)-6-((N-ethylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(ethyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-  
propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(ethyloxy)benzyl)-2-  
methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(pentyloxy)benzyl)-6-((N-ethylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(pentyloxy)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-  
propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~

~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(pentyloxy)benzyl)-2-  
methylbenzimidazole,~~

~~1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~  
~~6-((benzylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-furyl)benzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~  
~~1-(2-chloro-4-ethylbenzyl)-2-methyl-6-((N-1-propylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)benzimidazole,~~  
~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-ethylbenzyl)-2-methylbenzimidazole,~~  
and ~~6-((N-1-butylaminosulfonyl)carbamoyl)-1-(2-chloro-4-n-hexylbenzyl)-2-~~  
methylbenzimidazole.

6. (original) A pharmaceutical composition for preventing or treating impaired glucose tolerance, diabetes, diabetic complications, insulin-resistant syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome, hyperlipidemia, atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disorders, hyperglycemia, pancreatitis, osteoporosis, hyperuricemia, hypertension, inflammatory bowel disease, skin disease accompanying abnormal differentiation of epidermal cells, stenocardia, pulmonary hypertension, congestive heart failure, glomerulopathy, tubulointerstitial disorders, renal failure, atherosclerosis, angiostenosis, distal angiopathy, cerebral apoplexy, chronic reversible obstructions, autoimmune disease, allergic rhinitis, urticaria, glaucoma, diseases characterized by enteromotility disorders, impotence, nephritis, cachexia, pancreatitis, or post-PTCA restenosis, the pharmaceutical composition comprising, as an active ingredient, the benzimidazole derivative of any one of claims 1 to 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.